#4A/2-4-04

## **PATENT**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)

Ober, et al.

Examiner:

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Serial No.:

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Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

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20231 on July 2, 2001

Signature:

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 with the following:

This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/154,133, filed on September 16, 1998 and is based on Provisional Patent Application Serial Nos. 60/059,082 and 60/059,839, each of which was filed on September 16, 1997, and relates to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/154,443 filed on September 16, 1998, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

